



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

QFI and GEEQ Scholarship

Summer 2019

“Where in the World is Jordan?”

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Jordan Project Plan and Implementation
supported by readings and videos
By Joan Boyle

Duration: Two week CA Standards-Based Integrated Unit Grades 3-5

Assessments - Pretest / Posttest. Summative/formative assessments. Group poster research report. Group presentation. Rubrics – self and peer/parent. Compare/contrast structure grade.

Overall Learning Goal: Students will be introduced to the diversity of Jordan: human, geographical and physical.

Administer the Pre-Assessment - OR - optional New York Times Quiz
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/03/25/learning/JordanGeographyQuiz.html>

Unit 1 - Standard 3.1 Physical Geography – Where oh where is Jordan?

Locate Jordan on the map(s) provided.

1. To which continent does Jordan belong?

Answer. Jordan is in **Asia** near Africa and Europe crossroads. This Middle East republic is strategically located in western **Asia**.

2. Which countries border Jordan?

Answer. Syria to the North, Saudi Arabia to the south, Iraq to the east, Israel to the west

3. What bodies of water can you find bordering Jordan?

Answer. The Dead Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba which is the northern part of the Red Sea, and the Jordan River

Resources:

World Map:

<https://www.mapsofindia.com/worldmap/clickable-world-map.html>

Interactive Jordan map:

<https://www.roughguides.com/maps/middle-east/jordan/>

Guiding Question: What physical features can be found in Jordan.

Compare and contrast with California - (Students will already have studied our state, California, so that will be used as a comparative tool with Jordan.)

Activity: Form 3 heterogeneous groups to study the research documents provided in folder in our Google Classroom:

Three major geographic and climatic regions of Jordan

- Great Rift Valley (Jordan Valley – Entire Western flank of Jordan)
- Highland Plateau (Mountain Heights Plateau)
- Eastern Desert (Badia)

Resources:

Jordan- Enchantment to the World – Patricia K Kummer (Scholastic) Pgs. 18 – 24

Cultures of the World – Jordan - Coleman South – Pgs. 7-15

[https://www.everyculture.com/wc/Japan-to-](https://www.everyculture.com/wc/Japan-to-Mali/Jordanians.html#ixzz5tlNv3OQ4)

[Mali/Jordanians.html#ixzz5tlNv3OQ4](https://www.everyculture.com/wc/Japan-to-Mali/Jordanians.html#ixzz5tlNv3OQ4)

[https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Eastern_Desert_\(Jordan\)](https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Eastern_Desert_(Jordan))

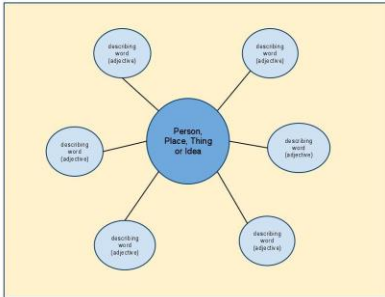
http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/geo_env1.html

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/reconstructing-petra-155444564/>

Unit 2 - Standard 3.3 Early history –how each period of settlement left its mark on the land

Pick, mallet and iron wedge - Petra

Guiding Questions: Who were the Nabateans? Complete a Bubble Thinking Map.



Resources:

http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/his_nabateans.html

Jordan- Enchantment to the World – Patricia K Kummer (Scholastic)

Pgs.8, 43-45, 111

Cultures of the World – Jordan - Coleman South – Pgs. 22-23

Building of Petra

Discuss the unique monumental capital city of Petra built by the Nabateans over 2000 years ago, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site since

1985. It is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. It is also called the Rose City due to the color of the stone of which it was carved.



Photo Credit Amy Perkins



Petra -
Photo Credit Amy Perkins

Resources:

NOW watch National Geographic Petra: City of Riches – segment the video in small parts depending on the question asked.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/tv/watch/6b2d8ffc4b0d4e35105a3ab93edc00de/>

Guiding question: Petra is located midway between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, both salt water, and 250 km from the closest city, Amman, so where did they get their water supply?

****This part of the study is also used to satisfy CA ELA Standard - Listening and Speaking****

Answer: The Nabatean engineers built water supply system with ceramic channels and pipelines so they had water available not just in the rainy season, but all year. Think about it – only 6 inches per year of rainfall!

How did they control the flow of water?

Answer: Channels were dug in cliff side and clay pipes were inserted and covered with water proof coating.



Clay pipe example in Petra

How did water flow into city center?

Answer: A number of water purification reservoirs (basins) were built which filtered the water as it passed through a small valve to multiple basins for more filtration. It then moved on to Petra's water system. Petra was surrounded by dams and miles of canals, aqueducts and cisterns which controlled lethal flash flooding and provided a desert oasis.

How else was water used?

Answer: The Nabateans also built a bathing complex the size of Olympic sized pool surrounded by complex of trees. This was used by the rich and prestigious guests. Also on the top of Jabal Khubthah, which was above the city center, a thermal spa can be found. The first pool was cool water, then another with warm water, then heated pool with a complex heating system from Greco Roman times. It is thought it could have been used for rituals.

Guiding question: Why do you think the Nabateans chose this location to build their city?

Answer: This location was on the crossroads of a popular trade route for frankincense, myrrh and spices. Petra soon became a popular location and it turned Petra into an ancient trading city of more than 20,000 people in a very short period of time.



Frankincense, amber and myrrh still for sale today at Petra

Critical thinking and design - engineering.

How do you think they moved the rock from the quarry to the building of Petra?

Answer: According to the video the quarries surrounding Petra were all higher than the city. It is believed that stones were rolled down to the building sites.

How do you think they built the large pillars in the large temple? Discuss this with your group and prepare your design, be ready to share.

Remember what natural resources were available during that time.

Answer: According to the video a limited number of Olive trees were used to build a scaffolding or pulley system.

UNIT 3 - Standard 3.2.1 Describe national identities.

Guiding Question? Who were the Bedouin people (from the Arab word Bedu) and how did they adapt to living in harsh desert conditions?

Resources:

Videos:

<https://youtu.be/Fb-nVfzbVI>

<https://www.theturbantimes.com/2017/05/12/backbone-jordanian-culture-bedouins/>

Readings:

<http://factsanddetails.com/world/cat52/sub331/item1988.html>

(****See Resource at end as I have modified this resource for third grade reading suitability.)

<http://www.jordanbeauty.com/bedouin-culture.html>

Activity

In third grade standards we learn about Native Americans tribes, now we will research the Bedouins who are native to the Middle East. Use the resources in our Google Classroom to work in your groups and prepare a report about these very interesting people. Be prepared to compare and contrast with our Navajo tribe who are also desert dwellers.

Bedouins (meaning desert people) are a nomadic tribe. One of the best known groups from Jordan's population is the Bedu. As they are known in Arabic, the *Bedu*, or "desert dwellers," endure the desert and have learned to survive its unforgiving climate. It is difficult to count Bedouins, but it is generally known that the majority of Jordan's population is of Bedouin origin. They traditionally raised livestock such as camels, horses, and donkeys as beasts of burden, and sheep and goats for food, clothing and manure. They have to move frequently to have new grazing grounds for their livestock.

Bedouins are often stereotyped as constantly wandering the desert in search of water and food for their flocks. This is only partly true. Only a small portion of Bedouin can still be regarded as true nomads, while many have settled down to cultivate crops rather than drive their animals across the desert. Most Bedouin have combined the two lifestyles to some degree. Those Bedouins who still practice pastoralism will camp in one spot for a few months at a time, grazing their herds of goats, sheep or camels until the fodder found in the area is exhausted. It is then time to move on. Often the only concession they make to the modern world is the acquisition of a pick-up truck (to move their animals long distances), plastic water containers and perhaps a kerosene stove.

It can be said that many of the characteristics of the Jordanian and Arab society are found in their strongest form in Bedouin culture. For instance, Bedouins are most famous for their hospitality, and it is part of their creed—rooted in the harshness of desert life—that no traveller is turned away. The tribal structure of Arab society is also most visible among the Bedouins, where the clan is at the center of social life. Each Bedouin family has its own tent, a collection (*hayy*) of which constitutes a clan (*qawm*). A number of these clans make up a tribe, or *qabila*.

As the Bedouins have long been, and still remain to a limited degree, outside the governing authority of the state, they have used a number of social mechanisms—including exile from the tribe, and the exaction of “blood money” or vengeance to right a crime—to maintain order in the society. The values of Bedouin society are vested in an ancient code of honor, calling for total loyalty to the clan and tribe in order to uphold the survival of the group.

How do the Bedouins survive in the desert?

The arid desert, hot, dry weather, and a scarcity of water and natural resources forced the Bedouin to rely on whatever they have access to in order to survive. Despite this, they lead a life of pride and simplicity in the desert and treat their surroundings with respect.

What is a typical diet for these nomadic people?

The Bedouins rely on a diet of dates, dried fruit, nuts, wheat, barley, rice, and meat. The meat comes from large animals such as cows, sheep, and lambs. They also eat dairy products: milk, cheese, yoghurt, and buttermilk (Labneh). Coffee is their staple drink. Note in the video the traditional way of making coffee fit to welcome special guests.

Do they still have a nomadic lifestyle today?

The Jordanian government, which in the past promoted the settling of the Bedouin, recognizes the unique value of their contribution to Jordan’s culture and heritage. Indeed, it has been said that they are the backbone of the Kingdom. The government continues to provide services such as education, housing and health clinics. However, some Bedouins pass these up in favor of the lifestyle which has served them so well over the centuries. to continue their nomadic existence.



Photo Credit Amy Perkins

Above - our Bedouin guide sharing his knowledge about his culture on our night walk in to the desert at Wadi Rum.

Below - Wadi Rum is a protected desert wilderness in southern Jordan. It features dramatic sandstone mountains like the many-domed Jebel Um Ishrin, and natural arches such as Burdah Rock Bridge.



Taken on location in Wadi Rum as part of QFI and GEE0 Scholarship
Photo Credit Amy Perkins

What type of housing do nomadic Bedouins use?

Most of Jordan's Bedouin live in the vast wasteland that extends east from the Desert Highway. All throughout the south and east of the country, their communities are marked by characteristic black goat-hair tents. These are known as *beit al-sha'ar*, or "house of hair."

The home is a large textile home, protected from the heat, cold and wind by hand-woven walls and ceilings. The tents are divided in two parts: one for men and one for women. Jordan's Bedouins live in the vast wasteland. All throughout the south and east of the country, they live in characteristic black goat-hair tents. These are known as *beit al-sha'ar*, or "house of hair."



Photo credit - [Jeff A. Benner](#)

How do Bedouins travel?

Typically by camel or donkey, but many Bedouins now use motorized transport. They acquired the camel around 1,100 B.C. Bedouins carried out caravan trade with camels between Arabia and the large city states of Syria to supplement their living. Today, they also provide tourist



Taken on location in Wadi Rum.

Photo Credit Amy Perkins



Camels outside of the Treasury in Petra. Photo Credit Amy Perkins
Do Bedouins play any special type of instruments?

<https://www.wadirumnomads.com/bedouin-music/>



This is a crudely constructed oud made by this Bedouin to attract the attention of tourists at Petra.

Photo Credit Amy Perkins

See below:

The oud is a pear-shaped string instrument. Unlike the guitar and lute, the oud has no frets. The number of strings varies between ten and thirteen. The back of the oud is specially beautiful with the thin strips of wood used.



Syrian oud made by Abdo Nahat in 1921